As mentioned in the introduction, Superfund distinguishes between short-term and long-term responses to threats posed by hazardous substances. Long-term responses, called remedial actions, involve complex and highly contaminated sites that often require several years to fully study the problem, develop a permanent remedy, and clean up the hazardous waste. This section focuses on such sites.

As sites are identified, evaluated, and cleaned, potential reuse is always considered. Region III has one of the most aggressive programs in the nation to promote reuse of sites by protecting prospective purchasers, lenders and property owners from Superfund liability. Region III has entered into 25 Prospective Purchaser Agreements (PPAs), assuring these buyers will not be liable for contamination they did not contribute to the site.

Superfund cleanups are complex projects that require the concerted efforts of EPA, state and local partners, community members and parties responsible for the contamination of the sites. The following recent case studies demonstrate the range of remedial activities in Virginia.

An abandoned eyesore that has fouled nearby waterways, the contaminated Kim-Stan Landfill in Alleghany County was placed on the NPL last year. Things are looking up for local residents as Region III is expediting the investigation and cleanup using technology transferred from other sites. EPA has just awarded a $50,000 Technical Assistance Grant to the Kim-Stan Advisory Committee comprised of concerned citizens and

Avtex Fibers, Inc. Site, Front Royal: Workers collect samples from sulphate basins and building demolition debris.

Many of our successes are also in thanks to EPA's flexibility. Region III has changed 52 cleanup decisions when advancements in technology can assure an alternate safe and effective cleanup. The cost savings in the Mid-Atlantic states are tremendous, totaling about $180 million so far.

Saunders Supply Co. Site, Suffolk County: Former wastewater pond.

Saunders Supply Co. Site: Active wood storage shed.

Saunders Supply Co. Site: Constructing a decontamination pad.

local stakeholders. At the Saunders Supply Co. Site in Suffolk County, EPA ensured 28,000 tons of arsenic, chromium and dioxin-contaminated soils were removed and groundwater contamination was properly addressed. Today with cleanup construction complete, this valuable property continues in use as a lumberyard.

The massive Avtex Fibers Site in Front Royal once had the unpleasant distinction of contaminating soils, surface and groundwater with carbon disulfide, lead, arsenic and PCBs potentially effecting 1,300 nearby residents. Under settlement reached with the potentially responsible party (PRP), the PRP has taken the lead on the remaining cleanup effort estimated at $63 million and reimbursed EPA $9.1 million. Working closely with the PRP, EPA is ensuring that the tons of demolition debris are properly cleaned or disposed, that plans to close 125 acres of disposal lagoons are drawn up and that evaluations of remaining buildings and basins are performed. With stakeholder input every step of the way, this well-situated, 440 acre property will become a reuse success story as the community members look forward to its transformation into a nature conservancy, commercial space and numerous sports fields.

Many of our success stories are in thanks to EPA's flexibility. Region III has changed 52 cleanup decisions when advancements in technology can assure an alternate safe and effective cleanup. The cost savings in the Mid-Atlantic states are tremendous, totaling about $180 million so far.

Burning solvents and clouds of black smoke once haunted nearby residents of the HH Burn Pit in Hanover County. Thanks to a productive working relationship between Region III and the responsible parties, this former blight and health threat is now a tree farm. This drastic improvement was facilitated by the site's listing on the NPL; removal of 1,000 drums; subsequent cleanup of contaminated soils and sediment, and EPA's approval of a innovative treatment system that will ensure any remaining groundwater contamination is cleaned faster, and at considerably less cost.

Nationwide, EPA has completed cleanup construction at 683 sites on the National Priorities List, and with appropriate funding is committed to cleaning 170 more by 2002.

In the Mid-Atlantic states, we're focused on post-construction activities as well, conducting regular five-year reviews on approximately 150 sites to ensure the remedies remain protective and monitoring all sites where long-term groundwater cleanup is being performed.

Rentokil, Inc. Site, Henrico County: A former wood treating plant, this site's soil and groundwater were contaminated with PCP, copper, arsenic and dioxin. Today, EPA has ensured the demolition of abandoned structures, disposal of contaminated materials, construction of divider walls (middle photo), monitoring wells, and wetlands restoration.

HH Burn Pit Site, Hanover County: EPA Region III ensured that over 200 truckloads of contaminated soil were removed from the site for proper treatment and disposal. This cleared the way for installing the groundwater treatment plant on the 'pad' (shown left).